

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-02 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-05

H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /061 W

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P 071703Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0922

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, UK

SUBJ: CIVAIR - PANAM SALES COMMISSION

REF: STATE 104616

1. ON SEPARATE OCCASIONS, WE INFORMED BOTH BROWN AND KEMMIS, DEPARTMENT OF TRADE, THAT USG WOULD CONSIDER ATTEMPT TO REVOKE PERMIT OR IMPOUND PANAM AIRCRAFT AS VIOLATION OF AVIATION AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES. WE PARTICULARLY STRESSED GREAT DIFFICULTY WE HAVE WITH UK CONTENTION THAT IT HAS RIGHT TO CONTROL COMMISSIONS ON TICKET SALES IN OTHER COUNTRIES. BROWN AND KEMMIS ACKNOWLEDGED PROBLEM LEGALLY VERY COMPLEX BUT BOTH SAID UKG LAWYERS HAD BEEN CONSULTED AT EVERY STEP DOT HAD TAKEN AND WERE SATISFIED UKG ACTING WITHIN ITS RIGHTS. KEMMIS SAID UK MINISTERS "HAWKISH" ON PROBLEM AND HE COULD NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY THAT ISSUE WOULD BE BROUGHT TO A HEAD.

2. CONFIRMING KEMMIS' OBSERVATION, PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE, CLINTON DAVIS, GAVE FOLLOWING ANSWER TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION ON MAY 5:
"I AM AWARE OF THE PRESENT DIFFICULTIES PRESENTED BY PANAM. MY DEPARTMENT WROTE TO PANAM ON APRIL 23 ASKING THEM TO GIVE SPECIFIC AND SATISFACTORY ASSURANCES FOLLOWING
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THE UNFORTUNATE INITIATIVE WHICH THEY TOOK.

"UNFORTUNATELY THEY HAVE NOT YET GIVEN THOSE ASSURANCES AND THIS COULD - I HOPE WILL NOT, BUT COULD - LEAD TO A POSSIBLE REVOCATION OF THEIR OPERATING PERMITS IN THIS COUNTRY.

"WE WANT TO SEE ORDER IN THIS SITUATION. THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO USE THEIR BEST ENDEAVOURS TO ACHIEVE THAT OBJECTIVE."

3. WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD PUT USG VIEWS OFFICIALLY AND IN WRITING TO UKG TO TRY HEAD-OFF POSSIBILITY OF PRECIPITOUS ACTION ON PART OF UKG AND TO ENSURE THAT RECORD WILL BE CLEAR IN EVENT CONFRONTATION SHOULD OCCUR. IF DEPARTMENT AGREES, REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS AND APPROPRIATE ARGUMENTATION TO BE INCLUDED IN EMBASSY NOTE.

RICHARDSON

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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